



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/882,140	06/15/2001	Tim Coffield	087522-785-155	9254

28104 7590 12/20/2002

JONES, DAY, REAVIS AND POGUE
35TH FLOOR
77 WEST WACKER
CHICAGO, IL 60601-1692

EXAMINER

HARRIS, STEPHANIE N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3636

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/882,140	Applicant(s) COFFIELD ET AL.	
	Examiner Stephanie N. Harris	Art Unit 3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gregory (USPN 6254490).

Gregory discloses a back for a chair comprising a fabric panel (28) and a carrier (30) extending around the periphery of and fastened to edges of the fabric panel as seen in Figures 2 and 6. The carrier is configured to be secured along a bottom edge to a bottom portion of a transverse first frame member of the chair back frame (16) via connectors (31) as seen in Figure 4. The carrier is also configured to be secured along two upper corners to top portions of the chair back frame (50) via connectors (31) as seen in Figure 4. Gregory discloses the fabric (28) is of open mesh construction (Col. 2, lines 33-36).

Regarding claims 6, 11, and 17, Gregory discloses a back for a chair comprising a fabric panel (28) and a bendable carrier (30) extending around the periphery of and fastened to edges of the fabric panel (28) as seen in Figure 2. The carrier can be fastened along a bottom edge to a first frame member (50) of the chair. Inherently when a flexible member is connected to a rigid member they form a flexible joint means. Therefore, flexible joint means are shown at opposed upper corners of the carrier as

seen in Figure 4. The joint means are configured to be connectable (31) to the upper portions of a second frame member (16). The carrier (30) is a two-piece structure and edges of the fabric (28) are clamped between two pieces as seen in Figures 2 and 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 8, 12, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregory in view of Pile (USPN 3008764).

Gregory has been described above noting Figures 2 and 4. Gregory shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention but fails to show the use of a ball and socket connection between the carrier and the chair frame.

Pile discloses a carrier that is configured with an aperture (44) that receives a portion of a ball (30) that is formed on a chair back frame (28) as seen in Figure 2. A retainer is secured to the carrier to form a socket (24) for retaining each of the balls (30) as seen in Figure 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the connection between the carrier and the chair frame of Gregory with the ball and socket connection, as shown by Pile, to allow the carrier and chair frame to be easily disengaged and reengaged.

Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregory in view of Stumpf et al. (USPN 6059368).

Gregory has been described above. Gregory shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention but fails to show the use of glue to secure fabric edges in the carrier. Stumpf et al. discloses that glue can be used to retain the fabric edges in the carrier (Col. 20, lines 39-43). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the carrier of Gregory with the glue, as shown by Stumpf et al., in order to provide a more secure fastening means for the fabric.

Claims 4, 5, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregory in view of Stumpf et al. (USPN 6035901).

Gregory discloses the fabric (28) is of open mesh construction (Col. 2, lines 33-36). Gregory shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention but fails to show the use of woven monofilaments and multifilaments. Stumpf et al. discloses the use of a chair back with woven monofilaments and multifilaments (Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the fabric of Gregory with the fabric comprised of woven monofilaments and multifilaments, as shown by Stumpf et al., in order to facilitate air circulation to minimize heat buildup for the occupant of the chair.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregory in view of Knoblock (USPN 5725277).

Regarding claim 10, Gregory shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention but fails to show the carrier being secured to a transverse member by screws. Knoblock discloses a carrier (4) that is secured to a transverse member (77) by screws (160) as seen in Figure 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the carrier of Gregory with the screws, as shown by Knoblock, in order to provide a more secure connection between the carrier and the transverse member.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to chair backs: U.S. Pat. No. 5632526 to McLarty, III et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6439661 to Braunning, U.S. Pat. No. 6382719 to Heidmann et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5810439 to Roslund, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 5601336 to Troyas-Bermejo, U.S. Pat. No. 5762403 to Robinson, U.S. Pat. No. 5911478 to Goodman, U.S. Pat. No. 45850840 to

Application/Control Number: 09/882,140

Page 6

Art Unit: 3636

Cunningham et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5507563 to Arthur, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 6102482 to

Dettoni et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 6113186 to Holmes et al.

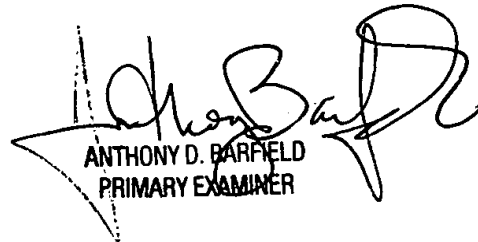
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie N. Harris whose telephone number is 703-305-1838. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

SNH

December 15, 2002



ANTHONY D. BARFIELD
PRIMARY EXAMINER